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RAD NEWSLETTER

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BEAUTIFICATION IS BUSTING OUT ALL OVER!

Beautification projects on the local level are "busting out all over," from east to west and north to south.

New Hampshire, the Granite State, is softening the face it presents to the world. Nine out of the ten RAD committees in the State have appointed beautification subcommittees.

One RAD subcommittee is trying to get judges to sentence litterers to roadside pick-up details--another is trying to reduce highway salt damage to roadside planting.

In Arkansas, an Extension Homemakers Club used a bulldozer to beautify a scenic turnoff to a vacation area around Blue Mountain Dam.

The area was a dumping ground for old cars. The club members hired a bulldozer to crush and bury the cars. This inspired others to beautify a gas station, clear roadsides, and landscape their homes.

A statewide pest control survey showed inadequate trash disposal in many counties and towns in Virginia. Virginia Extension Service began a program to acquaint officials with the need and design recommendations for sanitary land fills.

4-H groups in Yakima County, Washington had a countywide "March on Trash" last spring. Over 1000 young people and 500 adults picked up enough litter to fill 200 trucks.

Rockland County, New York, had a special conference on Natural Beauty last spring with Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas as keynote speaker.

The conference was arranged by the Rockland County Extension Service and had countywide participation. It emphasized what county residents could do on a local level to beautify their surroundings.

It attracted widespread editorial comment and Extension published a special Arbor Day issue of their magazine on how to beautify with trees.

COOL, CLEAR WATER TO ATTRACT INDUSTRY

Shining, clear water and plenty of it. That's what Cullman, Alabama wants.

They will have it too, thanks to the efforts of the Cullman County Extension Agent, the Mayor, and a Rural Resource Development specialist from Auburn University.

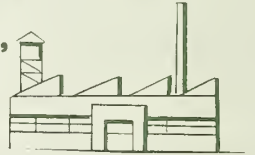


The water should attract new industry. Several years ago Mayor W. J. Nesmith had to turn down an industrialist interested in Cullman because the city couldn't provide the 600,000 gallons of water a day his business required.

This along with increasing population, placing more demands on the city's out-dated water system, caused the mayor to discuss the water problem with County Extension Chairman H. G. Pinkston. Money was the big problem.

Pinkston and Nesmith talked with Rural Resource Development Specialist Carl Parker about possible sources of financing. With other city officials they decided to visit the Housing and Home Finance Agency office in Atlanta, Georgia, to see if they could arrange a \$3,575,000 loan for the City of Cullman.

They obtained approval of the loan needed to build a filtering plant and dam, which will create a 528-acre reservoir.



When the plant and dam are completed next year, it will provide 8 million gallons of water a day for the city--with possible expansion to 24 million gallons daily, if 2 additional filtering plants are built.

MONEY TO DEVELOP HUMAN RESOURCES

Brenda, a young lady who lives in Swiften, Arkansas, no longer has aching eyes when she comes home from elementary school. She has her first pair of eye glasses.

About 60 youngsters in Lepanto School District #14 no longer stumble listlessly through their physical education classes. Now they play with the boundless energy of the typical gradeschooler, and they listen to their teachers better also.

Other children's skin diseases are clearing up. Many are walking around proudly in their first new and perhaps more important, neat clothes.

How did this come about? Under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, \$1 billion has been reserved to aid schools with large numbers of disadvantaged children.

About \$400 million has been earmarked for rural schools. The funds are allocated through the States for school districts to provide special programs for educationally deprived children in low-income areas to be used as the local school districts see fit.

The money can be used for health purposes, to get children like Brenda an eye examination and a pair of glasses that her family couldn't afford. It can provide nursing care and counseling in personal hygiene, to teach children habits of personal cleanliness. New clothes can be distributed to youngsters who seldom or perhaps never before had anything new in their lives. Others who regularly came to school without breakfast because there was no food at home are now getting oatmeal, orange juice, milk and toast to start the day. They can concentrate on the teacher now instead of their empty stomachs.

The money can also provide classes for school drop-outs, remedial reading and vocational education courses, or textbooks, and school supplies.

If there are children in your district who need such help, why don't you discuss it with your local school officials?

COOPERATION BRINGS PLYWOOD PLANT TO SMALL COLORADO TOWN

The Montezuma Plywood Company plant in Cortez, Colorado, is only a year old, but it reached full production this summer.

Company trucks are delivering the finished product to distributors in 20 States--the payroll adds about \$1,850,000 a year to the local economy--and employees are creating an increased demand for new housing, food, furniture, and services.

The plant is a monument to the cooperation of several interested groups--experienced lumbermen who had been interested in the unmarketed timber of the area, the Montezuma County Area Development Committee, and USDA's Technical Action Panel (TAP). After the Area Development Committee and the TAP prepared an Overall Economic Development Program for the county, the lumbermen applied for a loan from what is now the Economic Development Administration. The Commerce Department agency specified that local support as well as investment capital had to be found before they got the money.



The Montezuma County Area Development Committee and other groups formed the Montezuma Development Company which raised \$265,000 to meet the local obligation. Volunteers and the newspapers campaigned wholeheartedly, and the stock was sold by July 15, 1964.

Company officials raised \$1 million. Two banks loaned \$1,030,000 and the Commerce Department approved a \$1,683,000 loan.

Work on the plant started in summer of 1964 and was completed in July, 1965.

TRAINING HELPS SEASONAL FARM WORKERS IMPROVE THEIR LIVES

A new program in Alabama to train families of farm workers has increased their earning capacity, resulted in improvement of their homes, and made them more aware of their civic responsibilities.

Nearly 900 families in Bullock, Elmore, Lee, and Macon Counties are enrolled in full-time classes conducted in 49 centers through the 4-county area. They are being trained in basic education, communication skills, money management, farm and home improvements, and civic responsibilities.

The program is headed by two members of the Tuskegee School of Agriculture and funded by a \$1.3 million Office of Economic Opportunity grant to Tuskegee Institute.

Tests given at the beginning and end of the program indicate 135 illiterates now know how to read and write and 366 people with low scores in reading and writing now do both well. Many now take newspapers and magazines.

The families have improved their homes. Eighty-nine families have built pit-type sanitary privies and four have installed septic tanks. About 120 families have added running water to their homes or improved existing water systems. Others have made home improvements, built new homes, or bought land with plots ranging from 2 to 7 acres.

The program helped many families learn about the local employment office, Manpower Development and Training programs, and Medicare. About 109 have obtained Social Security numbers.

OPERATION PORKCHOP HELPS FARMERS IN MISSOURI

The little pigs of farmers in Laclede County, Missouri, did not go to market, they all stayed home. The pig's quality did not meet market requirements--one reason why average farm income in the county was only \$2,339 annually.

Members of the Missouri Ozarks Economic Opportunity Corporation knew the county was suited to pig raising and decided to do something about it.



Working with the county extension agent, and other city-county officials, the corporation decided to hire Ronald Young, a farmer and University of Missouri College of Agriculture graduate to supervise a training program--Operation Porkchop--for low-income farmers.

About 105 took courses on stock selection, breeding, nutrition, sanitation, disease control, buildings and equipment, and record keeping. When the course was completed, they became leadership aides and went to other farmers in the county to help them.

Economic Opportunity loans from USDA's Farmers Home Administration have helped farmers buy good breeding stock.

A local cooperative that sells feeder stock four times a year has made it easier for some of the farmers to get bank financing. Most of the farmers in the program sold pigs in May through their cooperative and received good prices.